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The Guide

Winter 1995

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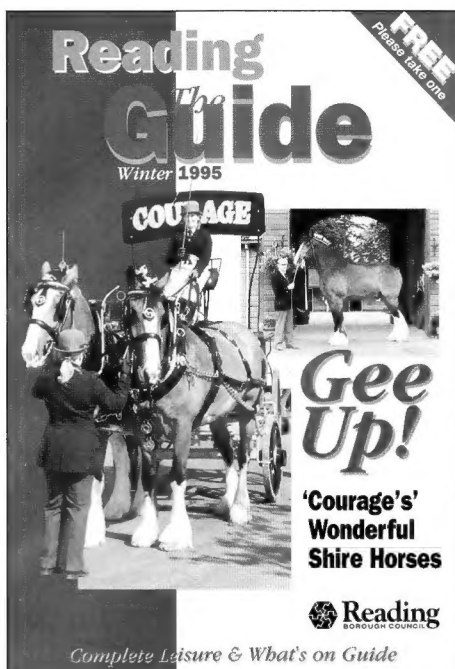
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Cover story:

Our front cover shows the wonderful Courage Shire Horses. These working horses are kept busy doing promotions for Courage, one of Reading's largest companies, right through the year. You can meet the animals in "person" at the Courage Shire Horse Centre (on the A4 near Maidenhead) when this popular tourist attraction re-opens to the public in March. Ring the centre (0628) 824848 for details, or (0480) 891642 if you're interested in using the horses for events/weddings etc.

Winter '95 Issue No. 4

Issue five of 'The GUIDE' will be printed in April 1995, covering the three months from April to June. Each issue of The Guide is produced by Reading Borough Council with an emphasis on community events and activities of interest to all residents of the greater Reading area. If you would like to submit details of listings, events, societies etc. for inclusion, or have any comments please write to:

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Every effort was made to ensure that the information in The Guide was correct at time of going to press, but Reading Borough Council and Salesforce Ltd., will not accept responsibility for any errors that may have inadvertently appeared, or changes made to event details/programmes subsequent to publication.

The Guide

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It's Fun Being Young



Spring is Here!

Well, almost... and here at The Guide we're looking forward to a season of great entertainment and some really exciting events.

Of course winter gives you the perfect excuse to hibernate - but why should you when there is so much going on in the town? Our clubs and societies are very active at this time of year - why not take up a new interest to fill the long evenings? Or if you prefer a more lively nightlife, don't miss out on the big choice of live music, clubs and other activities on offer?

As the warmer weather approaches Reading starts to buzz as our calendar of great outdoor events gets under way. This year sees the return of the Town Centre Panckae Race, and a new event - The Reading Cheese Fair, a medieval themed event in aid of the Mayor's charities. See our centre page spread for full details and a sneak preview of other events from Reading Borough Council to look forward to in 1995.

Music *To Your Ears*

NEW HOME FOR JAZZ CLUB

The Reading Jazz Club has moved! But not very far...just across the road to Holme Park (which is exactly opposite the old venue of Reading Cricket and Hockey Club). The change of venue means there are several improvements for Jazz nights - including chairs around individual tables, staging for the artists, a well-stocked bar open all night and a great range of quality bar food. Parking is easy, and all facilities are on the ground floor. As before Jazz nights are on the first Wednesday of the month, doors open at 7.30pm, with music at 8.30pm (til about 11pm). See you there! More info: (01734) 690625.



Hot music for cold nights

Roll Over Beethoven's

One of the best things to happen to the music scene in Reading for a while is the opening of "Beethoven's", a club that has already established itself as one of the top live music venues in the town.

Live bands currently play Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 9pm - 11pm. Music on offer includes cover numbers, light rock and R'n'B. Regular bands who have established a popular following include "The Cat Scratch Band", "Vision", "Rhythm Method", "The High Wasters" and "Pyramid". More good news: Thursday nights are free, and it's only £2 after 9pm on Friday and Saturday.

In addition to live music, "Beethoven's" offers excellent food, including an extensive selection of bar snacks, or you can dine in its 50-seater olde worlde restaurant which provides an extensive a la carte menu at affordable prices. "Beethoven's" is on the Oxford Road, out of Reading, on the Purley border.

Diary

Every Sunday

Readifolk Songclub meets at The Griffin, Church Road, Caversham. New theme/guest artists every week (including "Dark Lantern" and Johnny Coppin). Starts 8pm, FREE, all welcome.

Every Wednesday

Circle Dancing: Greek, Russian, Armenian and more. It's friendly and fun for all - just turn up. No partner or experience needed. Abbey Room, Central Library (Abbey Square). £2 (Conc: £1.50). Soft footwear. Details: (0734) 576197.

February

- 1 - Reading Jazz Club: Denise Lawrence and Storeyville Tickle, with guest artist Dave Morewood (banjo/guitar/vocals). 7.30 pm, Holme Park, Sonning Lane. Tickets £4.
- 4 - The Jooks, South Hill Park.
- 5 - Scarp, South Hill Park.
- 11 - John Otway, South Hill Park
- 11 - The Badgemore Ensemble: "Moonlight and Roses", a romantic concert for Valentine's Day. 7.30 pm, Victorian Hall, The Town Hall, Blagrove St. Tickets £6 (Conc: £5), from the Reading Information Centre, or The Hexagon.
- 12 - Richard Thompson plus support, Hexagon.
- 13 - A Tribute to the Carpenters, Hexagon.
- 18 - Noyz R Us and Brendan Cleary, South Hill Park
- 25 - Reading Concert Singers: Haydn "Nelson" Mass & Other Sacred Music. 7.30 pm, St George's Church, St. George's Rd, Reading. £3.50 (Conc: £3). Details: (0734) 425290.

March

- 1 - Reading Jazz Club: Denise Lawrence and Storeyville Tickle, with guest Mart Rogers (clarinet/sax). 7.30 pm, Holme Park (please note new venue), Sonning Lane. Tickets: £4.
- 6 - The Blues Band, Hexagon.
- 10 - Steeleye Span, Hexagon.
- 10 - The Badgemore Ensemble: "From Bach to Broadway", works by Mozart, Gershwin and Bach. 8pm, South Hill Park, Bracknell. Tickets: £6 (Conc: £4), Box Office: (0344) 484123.
- 11 - Gordon Giltrap, South Street.
- 11 - Reading Bach Choir: Rachmaninov's Vespers - by candlelight. 8pm, Douai Abbey (A4 between Theale and Thatcham). Tickets £6 (Conc: £5), Passport members £5 (Conc: £4), child: £3, from The Hexagon, Hickies, or Reading Information Centre.
- 12 - Solid Silver 60's Show, Hexagon.
- 19 - The Hollies, Hexagon.
- 25 - Edward II, South Street.

April

- 12 - Reading Concert Singers: Maundy "Olivet to Calvary" (sung with other choirs). 8pm, St. Mary Magdalen Church, Tilehurst. Free - retiring collection.
- 14 - Reading Concert Singers: Maundy "Olivet to Calvary" (sung with other choirs). 7.30pm, Whitley Hall Methodist Church, Whitley St. Free - retiring collection.

For more info pick up the monthly listings magazine "Blah Blah", available at venues, and information centres.

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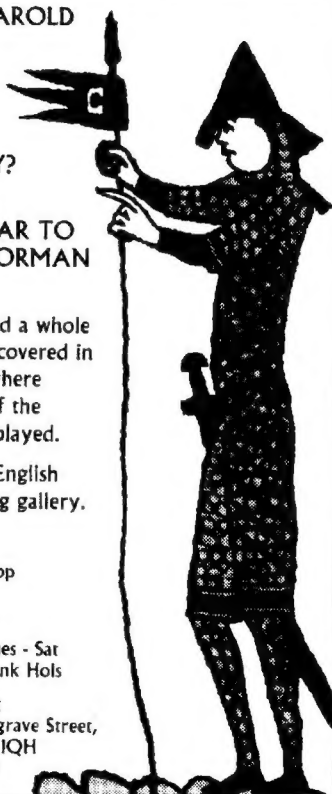
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THE MUSEUM OF READING

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- WHEN IS A TAPESTRY REALLY AN EMBROIDERY?
- WHY DID 35 VICTORIAN LADIES WORK FOR A YEAR TO COMMEMORATE THE NORMAN INVASION?

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Plus explore Reading's role in English history in The Story of Reading gallery.



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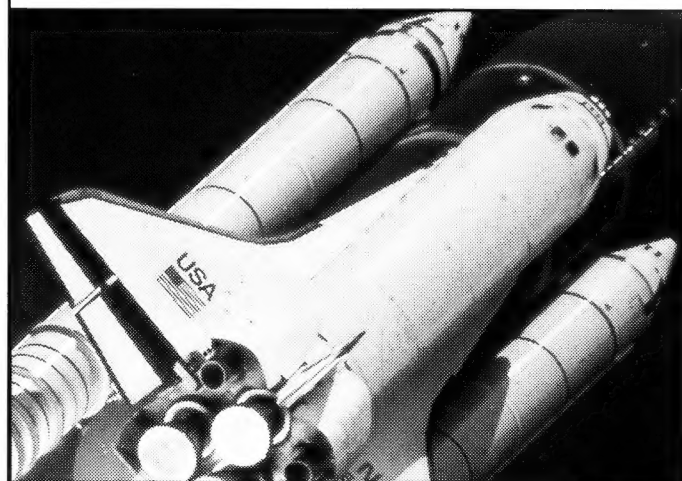
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Society *Whirl* U3A

Does the above mean anything to you? Possibly not, but to hundreds of local people it means an open door to a world of new discoveries. U3A is short for the University of the Third Age, an association for the retired and those no longer in gainful employment. But this is a University in the original sense of the word – a collective of people devoted to learning through self-help.

The group offers many different activities every month, from a luncheon club to an astronomy group.

The huge choice of areas of learning includes first aid, chess, French reading, arts, yoga, music, popular culture, and play reading. If you are interested in joining U3A contact A. Jones on (01734) 580085.

* The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month in the Kennet Room, Civic Centre, Reading, at 2pm. Non-members 50p. All activity groups meet at various locations throughout the week.

Diary

February

- 14 – Tramway Museum Soc: Slides of Portuguese Tramways. 7.30pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain St, Reading. £1.10. Details: (0734) 421469.
- 18 – Reading Astronomical Society: "William Lassell - grand amateur of Victorian Astronomy" by Dr. Allan Chapman. 7pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Church Rd, Earley. Prospective members welcome to attend. Details: 262180.

March

- 14 – Tramway Museum Soc: Australasia Trmaways 1994. 7.30pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain St, Reading. £1.10. Details: (0734) 421469.
- 18 – Reading Astronomical Society: "Sun & Communications" and "In the Shadow of the Incas". 7pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Church Rd, Earley. Details: 262180.

April

- 11 – Tramway Museum Society: Film show. 7.30pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain St, Reading. £1.10. Details: (0734) 421469.
- 15 – Reading Astronomical Soc: "Cooks Tour of the Moon" by Jeremy and Marie Cook. 7pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Church Rd, Earley. Details: 262180.

~ Movie Magic ~

Reading Film and Video Makers meet every Tuesday at St Andrew's Church Hall, Harrogate Rd, Caversham. 8pm start. Details: (0734) 479379. Future dates are:

January

- 31 – Making a Soundtrack, by Brian Hibbit.

February

- 1 – Buses in the Thames Valley 8 - Wheels of Fortune
- 7 – The Ward Trophy, holiday film comp.
- 14 – Aylesbury Movie Makers show their work
- 15 – Designing Stamps with a Transport theme
- 21 – Using Computers for titling and editing
- 28 – Swindon Film Unit show their work March
- 7 – The Bourn's Cup - Film of the Year comp.
- 14 – Script's for Summer projects
- 21 – How Judges Judge
- 22 – Steam in South Africa
- 28 – Hemel Hempstead movie makers work

For more details, contact the group secretary on (0734) 475743.

March

- 1 – Civil Aircraft
- 8 – Preservation in Denmark
- 15 – Ships
- 22 – Quiz Night
- 29 – Rail Tour from Winchester

April

- 4 – Talks on technique and technical matters
- 11 – The Abbey Cup, video of the year comp.

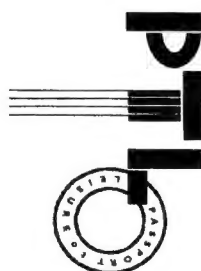
Reading Transport ~ Group ~

If you are interested in any form of transport why not come and join this Reading based group? The club meets every Wednesday in Room J, at South Reading Community Centre, Northumberland Ave, at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

IT'S A PASSPORT, BUT NOT JUST ANY PASSPORT... PASSPORT TO LEISURE

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or ring (0734) 390386

On the Trail of Our Heritage

THE HISTORY OF READING SOCIETY

Meets every month on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm-9.30pm, at Central Library's Abbey Room (Abbey Square entrance). The object of the Society is to cultivate an interest in and to encourage research into the history of the town of Reading. Membership is open to all those interested in furthering the objects of the Society. The annual subscription is just £7.50 (£10 per couple, retired couple £7.50, single retired £5). You can come to any meeting to learn more about the society (entry 50p) or call the membership secretary on (01734) 696081.

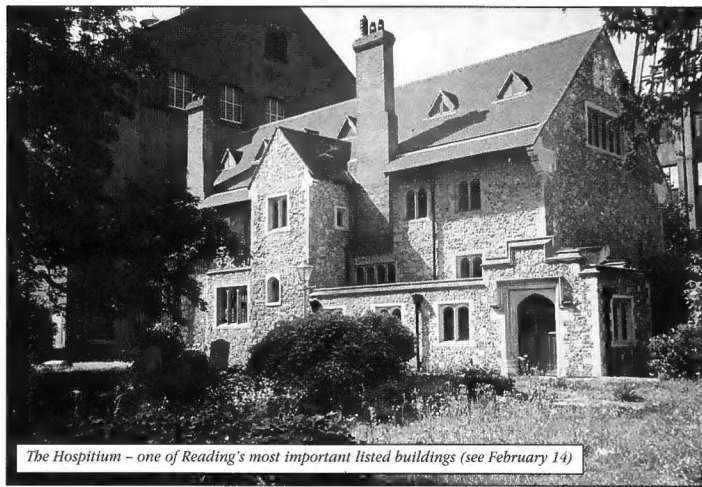
BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Is one of the areas oldest established societies, founded in 1871 with its headquarters in Reading. The group is essentially an amateur one, which exists to collect and diffuse information concerning the archaeology, history and architecture of the county. Members do not need to have any knowledge of the subject, but the group does have affiliations with many local and professional bodies.

Lecture meetings take place monthly from October to April on Saturday afternoons from 2.45pm - 4.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Church St (off London St). Lectures cover a wide range of topics, including many on local issues. The practical arm of the Society, Berks Field Research Group, organises regular trips to current excavations, as well as undertaking various local archaeological projects. To increase members understanding of the field a "Archaeology in Berkshire" day school is organised in March, in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Dept of Reading University. During the day the previous year's developments and excavations are reviewed in a series of presentations by local archaeologists. Additionally, each April a weekend trip is organised to a place of archaeological and historical interest. Annual membership of the Society is just £6 (family membership £7.50). If you are interested in joining why not come along to a meeting, or ring the Treasurer, Mr J. Gafford on (0734) 474308



How they are saving the Abbey Ruins (see March 25)



The Hospitium - one of Reading's most important listed buildings (see February 14)

EXPLORATIONS - THE MUSEUM OF READING

Organises a weekly "Exploration" based on the Museum, its collections and matters of local interest. These informal talks are held every Tuesday lunch time in the Earley Charity Room (unless otherwise indicated) and last for about 3/4 of an hour. Talks during February include a talk and guided walk around Reading's historic town centre sites by Molly Casey of the Reading Civic Society, and a fascinating look at some of Reading's listed buildings including town centre pubs and churches by art history lecturer Godwin Arnold. All are welcome and the talks are FREE, but donations welcome. Come along and chat to specialists in a friendly and informal setting. The Museum of Reading is on Blagrove St. Tel: (0734) 399805.

Diary

February

- 7 - Museum Exploration: "From Pillar to Palace", a talk on the Crystal Palace by Rita Noyes, Museum of Reading, 1pm, FREE.
- 14 - Museum Exploration: "Listed Building Miscellany", talk by Godwin Archer about Reading's oldest buildings. Museum of Reading, 1pm, FREE.
- 16 - History of Reading Society: "Roman Calleva" a talk by Sue Read, Abbey Room, Central Library, 7.30pm. Visitors 50p.
- 17 - Historical Assoc (Reading branch): "Holbein and Henry VIII", 7.30pm, Leighton Park School, Reading. Free, new members welcome. Details (0734) 871984.
- 18 - Berks Archaeological Soc.: "Saxon Abingdon and Eynsham", talk by G. Keevill. 2.45pm, Friends Meeting House, Church St., Reading.
- 21 - Museum Exploration: "Passport to Leisure". Discover all about the Council's discount card, with Sally Swift. Museum of Reading (Studio Gallery), 1pm, FREE.
- 28 - Museum Exploration: "A Walk in Reading's Historical Heartland", with Molly Casey. Museum of Reading, 1pm, FREE. Followed by a guided walk at 2pm if the weather is fine.

March

- 4 - Berks Archaeological Soc.: Day School, "Archaeology in Berks 1994", 9.30am-5pm, University of Reading, London Rd.

- 8 - Reading Civic Society: "Huntley and Palmers in the Antarctic", a talk with brilliant slides by Leslie Cram. 8pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain St. Free.
- 16 - History of Reading Society: A.G.M. followed by "Weather Climate and History" by Dr. J. Starr, Abbey Room, Central Library, 7.30pm. Visitors 50p.
- 17 - Historical Assoc. (Reading Branch): "Muslim Responses to the Modern World". 7.30pm, Leighton Park School, Reading. Free. Details: Dr. P. Jefferies (0734) 871984
- 18 - Berks Archaeological Soc: "Twyford Down, Archaeology and the M3" by Mr D. Farwell. 2.45pm, Friend's Meeting House, Church St.
- 20 - History of Reading Society: "To Reading By Coach" a talk by Judith Hunter, Abbey Room, Central Library, 7.30pm. Visitors 50p.
- 25 - Friends of Reading Abbey: "The Conservation and Restoration of Stone Buildings", lecture by Michael Eastham, with particular reference to Reading Abbey. 7.45pm, Earley Charity Room, Museum of Reading. Free, all welcome.

April

- 5 - Reading Civic Society: A.G.M. followed by The Future of Reading Town Hall, by Cllr. David Sutton. 8pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain St. Free.

Community Campaigns

READING VICTIM SUPPORT



Victim Support is the national organisation which provides a comprehensive service to victims of crime. The organisation is always looking for new volunteers, to provide support and advice to persons who have suffered as the result of crime. The police normally put Victim Support in contact with innocent people who are victims of assault and burglary amongst other crimes. Volunteers can help with emotional support, crime prevention information, advice on court and police procedures, insurance advice, and lots more. They need to be good listeners, and understanding. The amount of time given to the scheme varies from several hours every week to only occasional help. Volunteers who can provide practical help such as translation and interpreting, fund-raising or even repairing broken windows or doors are also welcome. Volunteers are given comprehensive training and full support from the group. If you'd like to know more contact Reading Victim Support, 18a Castle St, Reading, RG1 7SD. Tel (0734) 391158.

BERKS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS THERAPY CENTRE

This Caversham based group has organised a new fund raising event for this year - an Auction of Promises, to be held in the Mayor's Parlour, in the Civic Centre, on Thursday 16th March. Hopefully the event will include a lunchtime event and a short evening event for

people who can't make the afternoon. If you would like more information please call Lesley Dorrin on (0734) 482072.



HELMET YOUR HEAD FOR CYCLING CRED!

That's the message from the Childhood Injury Prevention Service at the Royal Berks Hospital and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust.



Did you know that over 120,000 people under the age of 16 are injured from cycle accidents each year? 60% of those injured are likely to have received a head injury. Head injury is the most common cause of death in 70% of fatal cycle accidents. Young people aged 12-16 are the largest group injured in cycle accidents. So **USE YOUR HEAD!** A cycle helmet will give your skull extra help to protect your brain. The brain is the control centre of the whole human body, and it controls your thoughts and memory: if it is damaged any of these important functions could be badly effected and you would not be able to go about your daily life in the same way. Your brain is very important - so make sure you look after it.

About the Campaign

Since the "Helmet your Head" campaign was launched in Reading in 1992, the results have been amazing. Using a mixture of targeted literature for young people, a schools roadshow,

community promotions and a low-cost "Hospital Helmet" scheme, the message is getting across to young people that wearing a helmet gives you street cred.

Research among 11-16 year olds, shows that from 10% always wearing a helmet the figure has increased to 30%, and the number of young people who sometimes wear a helmet has risen from about 10% to 30%. But most importantly the number of bicycle related head injuries for under-16's has fallen by 40%

BUT the message still remains - it's important that no matter how short a journey you're making you must wear your helmet. So if you're a young person use your head and wear a helmet - and if you're a parent make sure your child has got a good quality cycle helmet - and that they wear it whenever they go out on their bikes.





READING COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

2 Silver Street, Reading, Berks,
Telephone: 0734 868755 Fax: 0734 314786

- Brief Description:** The Council is working towards the elimination of discrimination by promoting equality of opportunities and good relations between persons of differing racial groups.
- Opening Times:** 10.00am-1.00pm, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
By appointment only - Tuesday, Thursday
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- Eligibility:** Anyone with a grievance. Any individual or organisation wanting information and advice in all aspects of race relations, in areas as diverse as education, employment, housing and health.

The Samaritans

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COMMUNITY/POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP.
Membership of the group includes the Reading
Police Area Commander and, if available, your
local Area Beat Officers. The agenda will
include a period for public questions.

The next meeting of the Group will be held
on TUESDAY 9th MARCH 1995, in the
SCHOOL HALL, ST. JOHNS PRIMARY SCHOOL,
ORTS ROAD, NEWTOWN, READING,
commencing at 7.30pm.

Don't miss this opportunity of voicing
your concerns.

Make a note of the date, time and venue.
Further details can be obtained by telephoning
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Spring into Sport

HALF MARATHON fever is with us again - and you may well have noticed the streets of Reading suddenly filled with joggers, all concentrating on their training for the big day on Sunday, April 30th!

As Reading's biggest participant event (with over 3,000 runners), the "Yellow Pages" Half Marathon is one of the most exciting dates on the sporting calendar - whether you're competing, or just an eager spectator. The route this year is unchanged - leading competitors through West Reading, the town centre, South Reading and Shinfield.

This year the event is under the management of Reading Borough Council's Sports and Leisure division - a new direction for the event following



Young entrants at the start of the Half Marathon Wheelchair Section

contact Rivermead on (01734) 575184 for an entry form and start running now!

ROAD CLOSURES

Please remember that the Half Marathon is a road race around the town, and as in previous years road closures will be in operation in many parts of the town during Sunday morning (between 9am-12noon approx). Please bear this in mind when planning any journeys on this day. Full details of the route and road closures/bus route changes will be published in the local papers.

See Reading Run!

many year's of hard work by the Half-Marathon's founder and previous organiser Stan Eldon. Because of its many years of involvement in the marathon and other large events, Reading Borough Council was the obvious candidate to take over the organising of the race (which is actually the result of hard work by many groups, including Reading Police, Berks County Council, Reading Buses, and a whole army of volunteer stewards).



They're off! Runners at the start of the Half Marathon

All entries (which will be accepted right up until 14th April) are being dealt with by staff at Rivermead Leisure Complex, on Richfield Ave., which is also the race's starting and finishing point.

Thousands of entries have already poured in and the race is also attracting substantial sponsorship support from companies in the town, including YELLOW PAGES and local paper the READING CHRONICLE.

The entry fee is being kept to £9 (£8 if affiliated). For the first time this year PASSPORT TO LEISURE Members receive a special discounted entry fee is £8/£7.

If you think you can rise to the challenge of a gruelling 13 mile race around the town, then

Diary

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7.30pm, entry 2.

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February

- 4 - Reading Rugby Football Club v. Ealing, at Holme Park.
- 11 - Reading F.C. v. Derby County, Division One match at Elm Park.
- 11 - Reading Rugby F.C. v. Redruth, League game at Holme Park.
- 21 - Reading F.C. v. Southend United, Division One match at Elm Park.

March

- 4 - Reading Rugby F.C. v. Aspartia, League game at Holme Park.
- 4 - Reading F.C. v. Watford, Division One match at Elm Park.
- 11 - Reading F.C. v. Barnsley, Division One match at Elm Park (or F.A. Cup 5)
- 21 - Reading F.C. v. Oldham Athletic, Division One match at Elm Park.

April

- 1 - Reading F.C. v. Swindon Town, Division One match at Elm Park.
- 1 - Reading Rugby F.C. v. Broughton Park, League game at Holme Park.
- 8 - Reading Rugby F.C. v. Rotherham, League game at Holme Park.
- 15 - Reading F.C. v. Port Vale, Division One match at Elm Park.



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ArtBeat

Discovering ~ Dance ~ from India

Sangeetanjali is a new series of Indian music and dance workshops, funded by Reading Borough Council. The workshops are held in 21 South St. Arts Centre every Monday and the course organisers are keen to involve children and adults from all backgrounds.

All workshop members will learn Indian Classical and folk music and dance to perform on stage. In the past, students of Sangeetanjali have performed at some of the town's biggest events - including Children's Festival, Cosmo '94, WOMAD and a Dewali concert at South St.

The new series of workshops started on January 16th, but places could still be available, and you can join the lessons at any stage. The sessions are on from 4pm-6pm, and there are two strands to choose from: Preparing for a "Sangeetanjali" concert (£12 for 10 workshops, or just £10 with Passport to Leisure), and Learn Pure Classical Dance and Music (£24 for 10 workshops, or £20 with Passport).

All ages and abilities welcome - come and join in the fun: for more information call (01734) 599542.



Rising to the Occasion

Do you know Reading? If you think you do and you haven't visited Reading's independent arts centre, then delve a little deeper and investigate what's on offer at the Rising Sun in Silver St. Jazz, blues, folk, and 57 varieties of world music take place alongside two monthly exhibitions, a lively, day-time cafe and a non-stop selection of workshops and classes where you can have a go at anything from raku pottery to haiku poetry. The centre is also home to artists' studios, a local listings magazine and the town's cheapest 16-track recording studio.

Although it's a centre run by local people for local people, the Rising Sun has nevertheless drawn performers from all corners of the globe -

Moroccan percussionists, Romanian gypsies, Indian Classical musicians, New York Jazz musicians and Russia's top string ensemble. If you're looking for something slightly different to the usual staple of pubs and nightclubs then there's a good chance you'll find it at the Rising Sun.

Concerts run every Saturday and many Thursdays - an up to date list of events can be picked up every month from shops in the town centre, the tourist information office or local libraries.

ArtBeat

Where Two Rivers Meet

The Story of Kennet Mouth

"Where Two Rivers Meet" is a charming little book that tells the story of one of Reading's loveliest, and most historic areas. Where two rivers meet is Kennet Mouth. Here, where Thames and Kennet merge, is a place of freedom, peace and space on the edge of the city. Between the railway and the rivers, a wedge of countryside, tiny but self-contained and special. This new book, published by three local artists who know the area well (Adam Stout, Peter Hay and Pip Hall) will appeal to those who know and love this part of the town already; lovers of railways and waterways, and anyone who is interested in the preservation of all that is special in our town.

The book is beautifully illustrated and immaculately hand-scripted, and is printed on recycled paper in a 32-page, A5 format. Priced just £4 you can buy a copy at Blackwell's and Friar St. bookshops, Museum of Reading, Blake's Lock Museum, Jelly Legg'd Chicken or Reading Library.

WIN A COPY OF
"WHERE TWO
RIVERS MEET"

Write the answers to the following questions about Kennet Mouth, on the back of a postcard. Send your answers to: Two Rivers Comp., Promotions Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7TD. Don't forget closing date is March 10th. The first two correct answers pulled out of the hat will win a copy of the book.



A soaring piece of art over the Kennet

1. A pagan burial ground was found close to Kennet Mouth. Were the people buried there:
a) Saxon b) Mayan c) Roman?
2. Is the site of the burial ground known as:
a) Wounded Knee b) Soar Head c) Broken Brow
3. Which famous local brewery ran the "Dreadnought" Pub:
a) Brakspears b) Simonds c) Morlands

Diary

Every Friday

CLUB CUICA another dancefloor dose of Brazilian, funk and other Latin flavours. £1 before 10pm, £2 after.

February

4 - The Drones, folk music from around the world: funny and melancholic. 8.30pm, £4/£3 conc.

11 - Mike Cooper & Viv Dogan: a great exponent of the blues plays alongside exotic vocalist Dogan. 8.30pm, £3.50/£2.50 conc.

18 - Tragic: acoustic ragtime punk with a blend of the mystic East to celebrate the Centre's 4th birthday.

25 - Stephane Delicq: virtuoso accordionist with French traditional music. 8.30pm, £4/£3 Conc.

March

14 - Makvirag: top Hungarian Folk Ensemble. 8.30pm, £4/£3 conc.

KENNET MOUTH
HERE THAMES AND KENNET
MEET. THE RIVER KENNET
UPON WHOSE BANKS THE
TOWN OF READING GREW
RISES NEAR SILBURY HILL
IN WILTSHIRE. THIS WAS
A IMPORTANT PLACE. THE
DAYS OF WATER TRANSPORT
ON THIS SITE STOOD EARLEY
WHARF WHICH MAY HAVE
BEEN FIRST USED BY THE
ROMANS TO SERVE THEIR
TOWN AT SILCHESTER
AND IN 1812 THE KENNET &
AVON CANAL WAS OPENED
THROUGH TO BRISTOL.
FOR GENERATIONS PEOPLE
HAVE COME HERE & WALK
PLAY AND ENJOY SOME
PEACE AND SANITY. LONG
THREATENED & SUCCESSIVE
ROAD SCHEMES KENNET
MOUTH WAS FINALLY SAVED
IN 1993 AFTER A PROLONGED
CAMPAIGN. THOSE WHO LOVE
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Three Cheers For Cheese

Not many local people will know that centuries ago Reading was famous for its cycle of four major fairs, held every year on the site now covered by The Forbury. Probably the most famous of these events was the Cheese Fair - a huge market which attracted visitors from all over the South, eager to sell and buy their wares: including tons and tons of cheese!

Of course the fairs were about a lot more than just trade - they were a wonderful excuse to celebrate,

enjoy musicians and acrobats perform, browse around the colourful market stalls and generally have a great time. For most people the fairs were the only "social" event they had to look forward to, and almost everyone in the town would have attended.

Now - some four hundred years on - the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading have revived the tradition of

Cheese Fair in Reading, with a medieval-flavoured event on historic Town Hall Square. The event is being held on Saturday, April 8th, between 11am - 4pm, and is in support of the Mayor's charities: Age Concern, Breakthrough, BSAD and Barnardo's.

There will be a variety of stalls, ranging from honey and organic produce, to crafts goods, and of course cheese (though we can't promise several tons of it!). Traditional skills including pole-lathe, hurdle making, and spinning will be demonstrated, and lots of entertainment has been planned - including minstrels, jesters, jugglers and acrobats, and the town crier. This fun new event which should appeal to all ages is being organised jointly by Reading Borough Council and local newspaper the Evening Post. Check for further details about the Cheese Fair in the Post.

By the way the event is free - you don't need a ticket and everyone is welcome.



OUT OF THE FRYING PAN!

Head for Reading town centre on Tuesday, February 28th, for the return of the town's traditional Pancake Race (or the Shrove Tuesday Shuffle as it is more aptly known). Once again organised in partnership by the Reading Chronicle and Reading Borough Council, this completely daft race up and down Broad St will include teams entered from local business, sports clubs, Reading Borough Council and the Reading Chronicle. Fancy dress is optional, and previous experience with a frying pan is not required: though some serious pancake-tossing practise is advised before the day to avoid getting egg on your face.

The big race starts at 12 noon, and takes place at the pedestrianised end

of Broad St, weather permitting (the runners may be daft but they're not completely mad). This is almost certainly your only chance this year to see well-known local faces making fools of themselves (except for the few who really want to win!), all in aid of the British Sports Assoc. for the Disabled - make sure you're there to cheer them on!

* If your organisation would like to enter a team call (0734) 390358.



Remembering 50 Years On...

As part of the town's "V.E. Day" commemorations in May, the Reading Festival Chorus, together with the Reading Bach Choir and their "twin" choirs from Dusseldorf, will be performing Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem". The groups travelling from Germany to join with our local choirs in what promises to be a remarkable musical event, are the Kreuzkantorei, and the Kantorei der Friedenskirche. Both of these large Dusseldorf choirs are church-based groups, who have built up strong links with Reading's Choirs.

The Reading Festival Chorus is itself celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, so there could be no more appropriate group to perform

anniversary of the twinning, and plans are already coming together to celebrate the link.

One of Europe's leading orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, will perform alongside the Choirs, along with soloists drawn from several countries. This wonderful collaboration promises a very memorable and moving event.

Project co-ordinator Bill Ellison says of this very special performance: "Any performance of the War Requiem looks back with anger and sadness to the tragic waste of war, but must at the same time look forward to an era of International co-operation, embracing the hope of the future while remembering the folly of the past. This concert will be an example of that co-operation: an International celebration in music of what can be achieved when people come together and work together. It will be a remarkable night."

The performance is at The Hexagon, on Saturday 6th May, at 8pm. Tickets are available from March 13th at The Hexagon box office, at £15/£12 and £8. (Box Office: 0734 591591).

* Reading remembers V.E. Day: a series of commemorative events are being co-ordinated by Reading Borough Council. A separate leaflet will carry full details or see the next issue of The Guide.

the "War Requiem". Reading's long standing association with "Twin-town" Dusseldorf, also began at the end of the war: 1997 will see the 50th

Reading's Town Crier George Fage will commence the events!



Reading
Festival
Chorus



Great live music at Reading events

Diary

Make a date not to miss some of the town's big events

February

28 - Pancake Race, Broad St

April

8 - Medieval Reading Cheese Fair
30 - Reading Half Marathon

May

6-8 - Victory in Europe Commemoration Events
20 - June 3: Children's Festival

June

4 - July 30: Forbury Band Concert season
24 - Water Fest

July

20-22 - Real Ale and Jazz Festival
21-23 - WOMAD at Rivermead
Lots more events news in the next issue of The Guide.



M·V·F

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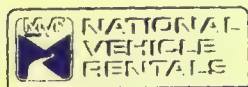
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Musical Magic At The Hexagon

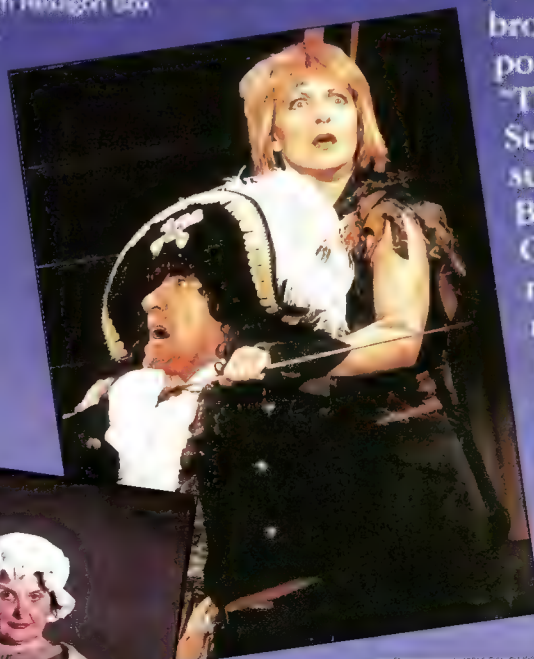
English Touring Opera is one of the leading companies to appear in towns throughout the country. Their name is synonymous with high quality, fully staged opera, sung in English with the backing of an acclaimed orchestra.

Two productions are on offer at The Hexagon: Rossini's popular comic opera "The Barber of Seville", which tells the story of Figaro and his attempts to play cupid, and "Orpheus and Eurydice" Gluck's passionate version of the Greek myth, which contains some of the richest and purest vocal music in the repertoire. Ticket prices start at just £7.50 if you have a Passport to Leisure. Ring the Box Office for performance details or see the new Hexagon diary. There's a rare opportunity to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Sir Charles Mackerras, on 9th March at 7.30pm. A programme of Dvorak includes his Carnival Overture, Symphony No. 7, and the Cello Concerto with soloist Stephen Isserles. The Orchestra of St. John's Smith Square, appear on March 24th, with conductor Stefan Sandberg and pianist Joanna MacGregor. The programme includes Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Symphony No. 3 (The Scottish).

and Bach's Piano Concerto in D minor. Tickets for both concerts £20 - £8.50.

Finally, at The Town Hall on March 1st, you can enjoy a St David's Day special when Welshman Tim Hugh (cello) plays Bach's Suites No. 1, 5 & 6. The performance is at 7.30pm, tickets are just £6 from Hexagon Box Office.

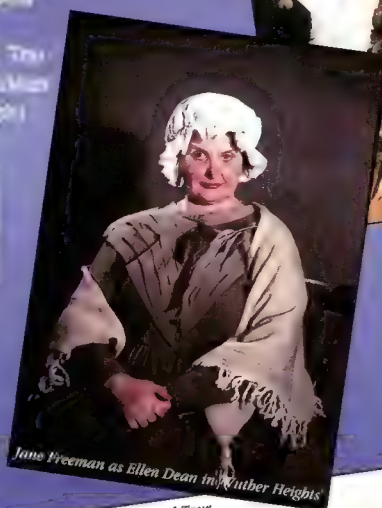
March sees a veritable feast of Classical entertainment at The Hexagon. From the broad humour and popular tunes of "The Barber of Seville" to the sublime beauty of Bach's Piano Concerto in D minor, there is music to suit the most demanding of tastes.



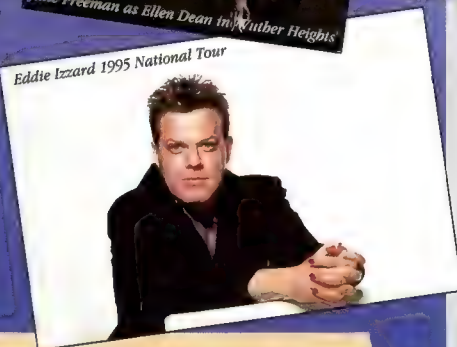
Toyah Wilcox as Peter Pan
Frank Finlay as Captain Hook in 'Peter Pan'

GETTING TO KNOW THE KING

Aslight change of musical pace with one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's greatest musicals "The King and I" performed by Reading Operatic Society, at The Hexagon from February 28th to March 4th. This well-loved play is performed by popular local company R.O.S., and includes such famous songs as "Shall We Dance", "Whistle a Happy Tune", "Hello Young Lovers" and of course, "Getting to Know You". The show is on 7.30 nightly, with a matinee at 3pm on Saturday. Tickets £7/£8 (All seats Tues and Sat afternoon £5).



June Freeman as Ellen Dean in 'Fiddler on the Roof'



Eddie Izzard 1995 National Tour

Coming Soon

...So Get Your Skates On!

After a remarkable sell-out week at The Hexagon last year, the Russian All Stars Ice-skating Company return to Reading with a new show "Cinderella on Ice" from May 9th-13th. Audiences last year were dazzled by the All Stars feats of high-speed, acrobatic skating and graceful ice-dance. This magical version of the classic fairy tale is

set to music by Prokofiev and promises to be a dazzling evening of entertainment, for all ages. The Hexagon is transformed into a 40 foot square ice stage for the show, which includes 24 top Russian ice skaters. The performance is enhanced with stunning costumes and special effects. Early booking is strongly advised, and tickets are priced from £9.50-£18.50 (concs. available) Ring the Box Office for details.

Diary

February

- 7 - 11 Fireman Sam Saves The Day.
- 9 The Comedy Store Players, the masters of improvised comedy
- 16 English Chamber Orchestra, programme of Bach.
- 21-25 "Peter Pan" by J.M. Barrie, adapted by Peter Denyer.
- 28 until
- Mar 4: Reading Operatic Society present "The King and I"

March

- 14/16 English Touring Opera present "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini.
- 15/17 English Touring Opera present "Orpheus and Eurydice" by Gluck

April

- 2 Chucklevision Live, family fun with the Chuckle Brothers (2.30pm)
- 3 Compagnia D'Opera Italiana di Milano present "Tosca" by Puccini
- 4 Eddie Izzard: the last word in stand-up comedy, 8pm, £9.50/£11.50.

For full listings see The Hexagon diary.

Scene On the Screen

Reel/Notes

Lots of exciting new titles hit the screen in Reading over the next few months - led of course by the eagerly awaited "Interview with the Vampire" starring Tom Cruise. Other titles to watch out for include Anthony Hopkins in "The Road to Wexham", the release of Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers", and two likely Oscar candidates - Robert Altman's "Pret A Porter" and Robert Redford's "Quiz Show". This looks like being one of the best seasons ever for

intelligent adult films, but younger audiences are also looked after with three wonderful new versions of children's classics - "Black Beauty", "Little Women" and "The Jungle Book" - which parents should enjoy too!



"Black Beauty" (Cert. U) is a new version of the famous Victorian children's novel by Anna Sewall. Directed by Caroline Thompson, who also wrote the screenplay, the film was filmed on location in England, and follows the life of "Black Beauty" from happy days in the country to hardship on the grim streets of London. During his life "Black Beauty" and his friends, experience the best and worst of human nature, while seeking a home where they will be treated with kindness. This new version of "Black Beauty", starring Sean Bean and David Thewlis, and with music by "Batman" composer Danny Elfman, will be at the MGM Cinema, Friar St., in time for the half term holiday - but should appeal to animal lovers of all ages!

Shatner, and Walter Koenig) are united with "Next Generation" stars Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes and Brent Spiner when different time frames are brought together. The two Captains of the "Enterprise" work together to defeat alien Dr. Sohan, played by Malcolm McDowell, who plans to destroy whole civilisations to attain his goals. Trekkies of all generations are bound to have a field day!

MERYL STREEP finds herself in hot water, when she takes her family on a quiet white-water rafting holiday in **"THE RIVER WILD"** (cert 12). As a woman who grew up navigating the rapids but has become citified, Streep stars in her first action-adventure movie. Her character has to resurrect all her river skills when her family is pursued by killer Kevin Bacon, and she finds herself navigating the rapids to save all their lives! Directed by Curtis (The Hand that Rocks the Cradle) Hanson, at breathtaking speed, with one of the cinema's finest dramatic actresses taking to river navigation skills and hazardous stunt work, like a duck to water.

Oliver Stone's infamous new film **"NATURAL BORN KILLERS"** finally gets a certificate (and yes it is "18") and arrives at the Odeon in February. Scripted by Quentin Tarantino, but apparently disowned by him, the film is shot in a wild, collage style that looks like a mix of home video and TV news. Thanks to the tabloid press most people will know the story follows the story of a young couple who go on a killing spree and become media celebrities. Intended as an attack against the power of the media, the film may actually be glorifying what it aims to decry. Judge for yourself if you've got the stomach for it...

"QUIZ SHOW" arrives in Reading during the run-up to the Oscars - good timing since it is hotly tipped to pick up a few statues. Directed by previous Oscar winner Robert Redford the film follows one of the most controversial episodes in the early days of television- the fixing of a hugely popular TV quiz to keep the ratings high. An excellent cast is led by Ralph Fiennes, who has made his way rapidly onto the "A" list of Hollywood actors, following a remarkable performance in "Schindler's List". A huge hit in the U.S. - hopefully the film will find an enthusiastic audience here.



A "mysterious astronomical phenomena" brings the crews of the Enterprise past and present to the big screen for **"STAR TREK: Generations"**. In what promises to be a remarkable clash of acting styles, the crew of the big-screen "Enterprise" (including William

Lestat Lives?

INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE reaches Reading's screens.

The vampire Lestat. Timeless and ageless he flows through the centuries on a river of blood which sustains his existence. When he so desires he rewards his victims with immortality - whether they want it or not. Into Lestat's world, in the late 18th Century comes Louis de Pointe du Lac. Amid the stifling atmosphere of a settlement near New Orleans, the air thick with the promise of unearthly desire and unspeakable horror, Louis encounters Lestat.

Two hundred years later, in modern day San Francisco, Louis decides to tell his story of desire, grief, terror and ecstasy to a young reporter, weaving the history that has come to be known as "Interview with the Vampire".

This long-awaited film version of Anne Rice's best-selling novel, was a hit in America - dismissing all worries over whether audiences would accept Tom Cruise in the role of the cruel and beautiful Lestat. The film's director is Neil Jordan, whose last film "Crying Game" was a major success. Jordan says of Cruise's casting in the lead: "When we discovered that Tom was interested in the script, we knew that casting him as Lestat would surprise many people. What struck us after meeting with him was how passionate he was about playing someone as evil as this. Anne Rice describes these vampires as eternally young, with a preternatural beauty about them and an icy kind of control. There were obvious routes we could have gone with the role of Lestat, but we preferred to take someone against type, like Tom, who is a superb actor."

Brad Pitt was first choice for the role of Louis. "Brad just exudes feeling. There is a certain vulnerability to the character of Louis which is very important, and Brad has that side to his nature." The rest of "Interview"'s cast are just as powerful - including Stephen Rea, Antonio Banderas, and Christian Slater as the street-wise interviewer, Malloy. In the pivotal role of the child-vampire Claudia, a young newcomer, Kirsten Dunst, was chosen.



Kirsten Dunst, Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise in "Interview with the Vampire"



Lestat (Tom Cruise) with French Courtesan Indra Ove

Filming took place in locations as diverse as Pinewood Studios, New Orleans and Paris to create the right feel. Computer-aided effects add to the illusion and the film-makers have succeeded in creating a dark and decadent nightmare world which is also opulent and alluring.

You can judge the final result for yourself - "Interview with the Vampire" is on now at the MGM Cinema, Friar St.

WIN DOUBLE GUEST TICKETS TO THE MGM CINEMA, Friar St.

Listed below are five of the most popular films that played at the MGM Cinema last year. All you have to do is unscramble the words to come up with five film titles.

**ETH ONETNFSLITS
RORETSF PUMG
HET KAMS
DINERSSLHC SLIT
ERUT ELSI**

There are two pairs of tickets to be won so get those answers on the back of a postcard and send it to: MGM Comp, Promotions Section, Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7TD. Don't forget to add your name and address. Closing date: 20th March 1995.

Last issue's competition: The answers were 1) The Shadow 2) The Roaring Lion and the motto "Ars Gratia Artis".

Openings

January

20th Interview with the Vampire (MGM) Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt star as the immortal bloodsuckers (see feature).

February

- 3rd Road to Wexley (18) (Odeon) Hopkins stars and as cereal inventor and health freak Henry Kellogg.
- 10th Star Trek: Generations (MGM) The small screen invades the big screen as two Enterprise crews collide (see feature).
- 10th Leon (18) (Odeon) Classy French thriller from Luc Besson.
- 17th Black Beauty (MGM) The children's classic about the life of a horse in the last century.
- 17th Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book (PG) (Odeon) another children's adaptation - a brilliant live-action version with excellent cast.
- 24th The River Wild (MGM) New thriller starring Meryl Streep and a lot of water.
- 24th Natural Born Killers (18) (Odeon) Finally given a certificate, and thanks to the tabloid coverage bound to be an enormous box-office hit.

March

- 3rd Pret A Porter (Odeon) Altman's new film is a scathing look at the world of haute couture, with a fine ensemble cast led by Sophia Loren.
- 10th Disclosure (MGM) Michael Douglas stars in yet another controversial film, based on Michael Crichton's novel about sexual politics.
- 17th I.Q. (MGM) Romance blossoms thanks to Einstein, in this comedy starring Meg Ryan
- 17th Quiz Show (Odeon) Strong contender for Oscar success, Robert Redford directs Ralph Fiennes in a tale of 1950's TV contest duplicity.
- 24th Drop Zone (MGM) Tough thriller starring Wesley Snipes.
- 24th Little Women (Odeon) Susan Sarandon and Winona Ryder star in a faithful adaptation of Louisa Alcott's novel of four sisters in Victorian America.

April

- 7th Dumb and Dumber (Odeon) Frantic comedy starring Jim Carrey as a hapless chauffeur.
- 7th 101 Dalmations (U) (Odeon) Classic Disney, with their finest villainess, Cruella De Ville, stealing puppies to make a dalmation skin coat...

21 South St – The Address to Watch

New season of entertainment at Reading's Arts Centre.

VERY DIFFERENT DRAMA

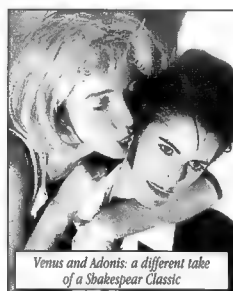
Challenging new drama from some of the leading touring theatre companies in the U.K., is one of the prize elements of New Year at South St. The Classics get a new twist as Chekhov and Shakespeare are put through their paces by Scarlet Theatre and Actor's Touring Company respectively. Don't miss two dramatically different productions . . . 22nd February, 8pm. £6.50 (£5.50 pti, £4.50 conc)

"The Sisters": Scarlet Theatre present a specially adapted version of Chekhov's famous piece. Award winning Polish director Katarzyna Deszcz explores the interplay between relationships and loneliness in the complex psychological relationships of five women. A compelling fusion of words, original music and

stunning visual effects.

29th March, 8pm. £6.50 (£5.50 pti, £4.50 conc)

"Venus and Adonis": presented by Actors Touring Company, in collaboration with The Hairy Mary's. Shakespeare's great dramatic poem sets Love



against Lust and Art against Nature, a classic tale of obsessive love brilliantly retold with drama, video, dance and music. Physical theatre company The Hairy Mary's work with Actors Touring Company to create a vividly original interpretation.

PLUS DON'T MISS: Sat 8th April, 21 South St presents "Pentangle". Your last chance to see hit 60's electro-folk band "Pentangle", who are currently on their

farewell tour. Full details in the April-June South St programme.

SOUTH ST. BOX OFFICE: (0734) 591591

More manic mayhem from the world of comedy, every second and last Friday of the month, at 21 South St. Some of the hottest new acts around will do their very best to give you an hilarious night out. Top names in stand-up have graced the stage at South

St on their rise to fame and fortune, including Jack Dee, Eddie Izzard, and Jo Brand. Catch this new generation while you can still afford them!

February 10th – Earl Okin and Logan Murray. Singer, songwriter, musician and supremely witty comedian, Okin is one of the leading lights of the London alternative comedy circuit. 8.30pm, £5.50 (£4.50 pti/conc)

February 24th – Junior Simpson, Aymer & Powell, John Simmit, and compere Firaj. Feast of top-class stand-up comedy with stars of BBC 2's "The Real McCoy". Laughter and topical comment guaranteed. 8.30pm, £5.50 (£4.50 pti/conc)

March 17th – A St. Patrick's Day special with comedy talent from the Emerald Isle, featuring Dermot Carmody: an inspired fusion of comedy, song, and word-weaving. 8.30pm, £5.50 (£4.50 pti/conc)

March 31st – Mandy Knight in "Some of my Best Friends are Ginger". Decidedly different improvisation and superb characterisations from the wicked Ms. Knight. 8.30pm, £5.50/£4.50 pti/conc

Comedy Club

Other Theatre listings

February

until 25: "Joking Apart" a haunting but very funny play by Alan Ayckbourn on the awfulness of perfection. The Mill at Sonning Dinner-theatre. Box Office: (01734) 698000

4 – "Under Milk Wood". Guy Masterson performs a one-man version of Dylan Thomas's famous "play for voices" with startling physical and verbal virtuosity. South Hill Park (Studio Theatre), Bracknell. 8pm, £7/£6. Box Office: (01344) 484123.

8–11: Park Opera presents Mozart's "Il Seraglio". Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park. 7.30pm. (Weds £8/£7, other nights £9/£8)

14 until Mar 18 "Goodbye Mr. Chips" by James Hilton, adapted by Norman Coates. World premiere of new version of the famous novel about school life. The Watermill Theatre & Restaurant, Bagnor, Newbury. Box Office: (01635) 46044

22–25 Quercus Theatre presents "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett, adapted with music, by Therese and Alfred Kitchin. 7.30pm (Sat mat: 2.30pm) £8/£7 (child, £6.50/£5)

28 until April 8 "Stage Struck" a thriller by Simon Gray, with ingenious stage effects and exhilaratingly witty dialogue. The Mill at Sonning Dinner-Theatre, Box Office: (0734) 698000

March

28 Feb–Mar 4 "Blitz" the hit musical by Lionel Bart set in 1940's East End London, presented by Hatton Operatic Society. Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park. £7.30pm. Tickets £3.50–£8 (ask Box Office for details).

1–4 "Out of Order" by Ray Cooney, presented by Shinfield Players' Theatre, Shinfield Park, Whitley Wood. 7.45pm, £4. Box Office: (0734) 267135.

10–18 "Habeas Corpus" – Alan Bennett's satirical farce set in a doctor's surgery. 7.45pm. Tickets £4/£5. Presented by Wokingham Theatre, Twyford Rd, Wokingham. Bookings: (01734) 785363 (ansaphone)

28 until April 29 "Thark" a farce by Ben Travers. A haunted house and a philandering peer create mayhem in this hilarious play. Watermill Theatre & Restaurant, Bagnor. Box Office: (01635) 46044.

Phoenix Dance Company: Hexagon 7-8 April 1995

Mandy Knight: Some of her best friends are Ginger

Richard Thompson: Hexagon Feb 12 1995

Back to Nature

For the birds

Our unusually mild Autumn has caused a lot of confusion! Bulbs have come up early, spring flowering plants opened in November, and many Summer favourites didn't stop blooming until Christmas. This meant that well into December squirrels, hedgehogs and other wildlife was still out and about, and our birds could find plenty of food still available in the form of insects, berries and worms.

But now the ground has frozen and the birds' regular food supplies are running out, you may want to think about helping your feathered neighbours survive the winter. Wild bird seed, nets of peanuts and feedsticks are easily available at pet shops and supermarkets - or of course you can serve up scraps: brown bread, dried fruit, pastry and cake are all perfect. If the weather is very cold you should also provide a supply of fresh water. But please remember once you have started putting out

food, don't suddenly withdraw the supply. Come early spring the birds will once more be able to find their own food sources.

Some of the birds you can expect to see over the winter months include blue tits, blackbirds, sparrows, thrushes and, of course, robins. By the way, if you or your neighbours have got cats it might not be a good idea to encourage birds into your garden!

If you'd like to find out more about wild birds why not join your local branch of the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), ring Don Bowley-Booth on (01734) 816181 for details. Annual membership is just £6, and the group organises regular field trips, talks and slide shows. See diary of events.



Don't forget the Thames
Swans over the winter months



GARDENING NATURE'S WAY

Berkshire Organic Gardeners are a well-established local group who promote gardening the old fashioned way: without using harmful pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. Instead you can find out all about a huge variety of "natural" remedies for the garden - including, of course, home-made compost and some timeless tricks on pest control (without spraying!). Organic gardening is no more time-consuming or labour intensive than gardening with modern aids - and it is a whole lot better for the environment!

B.O.G. meet most months at Caversham Court Environment Centre, see diary for listings, and if you'd like to know more ring the membership secretary, M. Skinner, on (01734) 470357.

Diary

February

- 2 Reading Urban Wildlife Group: "Amphibian Action", marsh frogs and creating habitats for newts. 7.30pm, Abbey Room, Reading Library. £1.
- 3 Reading Urban Wildlife Group: monthly committee meeting at Southcote Library. 7.30pm. Free.
- 10 Reading & District Bat Group: Practical work at Clayfield Copse (inspecting bat-boxes, repairing fencing etc.) From 10am. Ring: (01734) 461638 for more info.
- 11 Thames Valley Mammal Group: Mink, Otter, Watervole and Polecat talks by experts. 2pm-5.45pm, PB2 Building, Reading University, Whiteknights. Non-members: £4 (incl refreshments). Details: 344127.

- 14 Reading RSPB: "The Life and Work of the Bird Man, John Gould" a talk by Lt. Comm. Glen Duggan on the career of a remarkable artist. 8pm, Kennet Room, Civic Centre. Visitors: £1.50
- 22 Berks. Organic Gardeners: "New Life for Old Tools", talk by Rod Dillon from the organisation "Tools for Self-Reliance". 7.30pm, Caversham Court Environment Centre, Free.

March

- 3 Reading Urban Wildlife Group: committee meeting. Southcote Library, 7.30pm, Free.
- 14 Reading RSPB: "Bird Flight", a light-hearted look at the mechanics of flying by Dr Edward Eastwood. 8pm, Kennet Room, Civic Centre. Visitors £1.50

- 24 Reading Urban Wildlife Group: "Nature in Industry": talk on biotechnology. 7.30pm, Abbey Room, Central Library. £1.
- 28 Reading & District Bat Group: A.G.M. followed by slide-show, 7pm, Caversham Court Environment Centre. Details: (0734) 461638.
- 29 Berks Organic Gardeners: "Land Management in Crisis", a talk by Sir Julian Rose. 7.30pm, Caversham Court Environment Centre, Free.

April

- 4 "A Year in the Life of Zambia's Luangwa Valley", by tour guide and photographer David Back.

See directory for contact names and addresses.

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You'll be pleased to hear that the New Year brings a brand new major musical event to Reading. The Leighton Park Music Fest '95 is an exciting new initiative brought to the town by Leighton Park School. The Festival aims to present a challenging and fun mix of musical activities, ranging from a Jazz masterclass with Hilary Cameron, to an African Drumming Workshop, and a "Come and Sing Carmina Burana" workshop and performance.

Ticket prices are amazingly cheap - many of the concerts are just £3, with Passport to Leisure members paying the Concessionary price of just £1. However, many events are FREE and others are just £1. There is even a Music Fest Pass at £30 (£20 for Concs.)

Event organiser Jeremy Hibbins, assistant director of music at Leighton Park says: "This is one of the most adventurous music projects yet undertaken by Leighton Park: 32 events crammed into a 9-day festival of music,

year". The FEST runs from March 4th - 12th, inclusive. Some of the highlights include the award-winning Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra, Gypsy Jazz, a String masterclass with Brien Stait, and a performance by Central Berkshire Concert Band. For a full programme contact Leighton Park School (address below) or pick up a leaflet at Libraries, the Civic Centre or Hickies.

Fest facts: The Leighton Park Music Fest 1995 is at Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road (A327), Reading, RG2 7DH. Tel: (01734) 864917. All events are in either the Main Hall or Peckover Hall. Some tickets should be booked early as places are limited. Ring for more details.

TRAVEL BY BUS for FREE:

If you travel by Reading Buses to any of the events simply present your bus ticket and your concert ticket price will be reduced by the amount of your bus fare (MAXIMUM refund is the concert ticket price). Buses 7,8,12,20,61, 62, all stop nearby.

Diary

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|
| 4th | African Drumming Workshop, 2.30pm
The House Music Competition, 7.30pm | 9th | Fourth form concert, 1.40-2.15pm. Central Berks Concert Band, 7.30-8.45pm. LP Big Band in Concert, 9pm. |
| 5th | National Festival of Music for Youth, regional event, 10am-5.30pm Music for a Sunday Evening, 7.30 -8.30pm Mugs' Jazz, 9-10.30pm. | 10th | Fifth form concert, 1.40-2.15pm. Piano Recital by Nils Franke, 7pm. Berks Youth Jazz Orchestra with Peter King, 8.30-10.30pm. |
| 6th | Fryer Concert, 1.40-2.30pm. Royal Academy of Music Cello Ensemble, 7.30pm LP Stompers Trad Jazz Band, 9pm. | 11th | Come and Sing Carmina Burana, workshop event 2.30-5.30pm Carl Orff: Carmina Burana, performance 7pm. Music Fest Banquet: black tie dinner/dance at Walter Arms, 8.30pm. |
| 7th | Third Form Concert, 1.40-2.15pm Michael Omer: Lecture by TV/Film composer, 4.10pm Music Dept and Guests, 7.30pm Gypsy Jazz, 9pm. | 12th | Reading Symphony Orchestra Young Musician Competition, 11.30am-5.30pm Jazz Masterclass with Hilary Cameron, 2.30-4.30pm. Tina May Quartet with Don Weller, 7.30-10pm. |
| 8th | Composition Workshop with Mike Steer, 2.15-5.30pm Strings Masterclass with Brien Stait, 6-9pm LP Jazz Quintet plays Monk, 9pm. | | |

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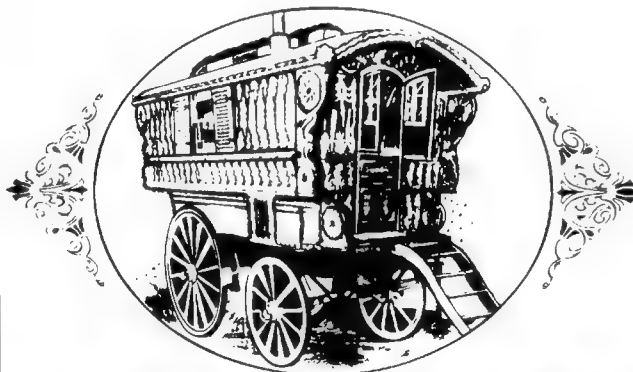
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The Directory

MUSIC VENUES/ CLUBS

MacDevitt's Pub Cafe/
21 South Street Arts Centre
21 South Street
Reading Tel: 568155

3b's The Town Hall
Friar Street
Reading Tel: 399803

The After Dark Club
112 Castle Street
Reading Tel: 576847

The Alley Bar
Union Street
Reading Tel: 574658

Bukowskis
1 Gun Street
Reading Tel: 509191

Boozy Blues Bar
27 London Road
Reading Tel: 391730

Central Club
36-42 London Street
Reading Tel: 574421

The Granby Tavern
Cemetery Junction
London Rd, Reading Tel:
352537

Nue Valbonne
2-4 Church Street
Caversham
Tel: 482233

The Purple Turtle
Duke Street
594549

Trades Union Club
Chatham Street
Reading
586505

The Turks Head
London Road
576930

Fat Jacks
Old Bell
Grazely Green
883115

Washington Heights
57a Caversham Road
Reading
586093

HISTORY/HERITAGE/ SCIENCE SOCIETIES

Berkshire Industrial
Archaeology Group
Bent C. Weber (Programme
Officer)
25 Andrews Road
Earley Tel: 265200

Reading Microscopical Society
K. Brownlee
Flat 2
63 South Street
Reading Tel: 566836

Tramway Museum Society
Derek Redmond
3 Larkwood Close
Tilehurst Tel: 421469

Reading Civic Society
Ted Bell
74b Bath Road
Reading Tel: 572711

Friends of Reading Abbey
N L Denton
12 Maria Court
Southcote Rd
Reading Tel: 585576

Berk Family History Society
R. Houseman
The Corner House
7 Shaw Road
Reading Tel: 503073

Berkshire Archaeological
Society
N.L Denton
12 Maria Court
Southcote Rd
Reading Tel: 585576

The History of Reading Society
Mr.P.Russell
5 Wilmingon Close
Woodley Tel: 696081

The Historical Association
Dr. P. Jefferies
62 Elmhurst Rd
Reading Tel: 871984

Railway Correspondence &
Travel Society
John Starkey
20 Trafalgar Court
Southcote Road
Reading Tel: 588738

Reading Transport Group
Room J
South Reading Community
Centre

Northumberland Ave
Reading Tel: 475743

NATURE/CONSERVATION CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

WWF (World Wide Fund For
Nature)
B. Jenkins- Chair
208 Kingfisher Drive
Woodley

The Reading & District Natural
History Society
B. Meek Hon. Gen. Sec.
29 Morecambe Avenue
Caversham Tel: 477428

Reading Friends of The Earth
A. Thomas
33a Dover Street
Reading Tel: 505645

Reading & District Bat group
c/o Caversham Court
Church Road
Caversham Tel: 461638

RSPB (Reading)
86 Long Grove
Baughurst Hants
Tel: 816181

BBONT/Reading Urban Wildlife
Group/Thames Valley Mammal
Group
Box 367
Reading
RG6 2FF

Berkshire Organic Gardeners
14 Copse Avenue
Caversham
Reading

CHILDREN

Children's Information Centre
Civic Centre,
Reading
Tel: 509499

East Reading Adventure
Playground
Palmer Park
London Road
Reading RG1
Tel: 667577

Waterloo Meadows Childrens
centre
Elgar Road
Reading
RG2 0BN
Tel: 750819

COMMUNITY CARE

Amnesty International Reading
Group
C/o RISC
London St.
or Tel: 861461

Samaritans
59a Cholmeley Rd.
Reading RG1 3NB
Tel: 266333

Reading Council for Racial
Equality
2 Silver street
Reading Tel: 868755

Volunteer Reading Help
The Teachers Centre
Cranbury Rd
Reading Tel: 560463

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Readifolk Song Club
The Griffin
Church road
Caversham Tel: 483145

Reading Jazz Club
Holme Park
Sonning Lane
Reading Tel: 690625

Knitting and Crochet Guild
S. Ryle
44 Webster close
Maidenhead Tel 0628 28096

Reading Film and Video Makers
Vice Chairman-R.Hutchison
19 Rosehill Park
Caversham Tel: 479379

Society of Amateur Artists
Ted Burnell
11 Bristow Court
Harley road
Caversham Tel: 47849

Reading Circle Dance Group
C/o 298 Hemdean Road
Caversham Tel: 472732

Reading Society of Model
Engineers
A. Grimes
34 Junction Road
Reading Tel: 667764

Reading Flower Club
C. Collins
40 Blewbury Drive
Tilehurst
Reading Tel: 429459

The Directory

Reading Bach Choir
I Fowler,
14 Edenhall Close
Tilehurst Tel: 417468

Reading Festival Chorus
67 Eastern Ave
Reading
Tel: 261790

Reading Concert Singers
M. Munday
3 Fircroft Close
Tilehurst Tel: 425290

The Embroiderers Guild
Berkshire Branch
Secretary Tel: 835157

Henley Symphony Orchestra
Y. Williamson
Tel: 472261

Tilehurst Eisteddfod
V. Sprackling
17 Routh Lane
Tilehurst Tel: 422206

UK Federation of Business and
Professional Women
J. Pitt - membership secretary
Tel: 698757

British Trolleybus Society
Tel: 665983

Reading Haydn Choir
Publicity officer
30 St Johns Hill
Reading

University of the 3rd Age
c/o 9 Inglewood Court
Liebenrood Road
Reading Tel: 580085

Thames Wind Concert band
208 Kentwood Hill
Tilehurst Tel: 427016

Thames Valley Flower
Arrangement Club
2 Deerhurst Close
Calcot Tel: 420471

Rising Sun Institute
30 Silver St
Reading
0734 866788

Reading Camera Club
c/o 20 Crescent Road
Tilehurst
Reading

SPORTS VENUES

Reading Football Club
Elm Park
Norfolk Road
Reading Tel: 507878

Reading Rugby Club
Holme Park
Sonning Lane
Nr Reading
0734 690030

Reading Angling centre
69 Northumberland Avenue
Reading

Reading Racers/Greyhounds
Smallmead Stadium
Bennet Road
Reading Tel: 863161

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

MGM Cinema
Friar Street
Reading

Odeon Cinema
Cheapside
Reading

Progress Theatre
The Mount
Christchurch Road
Reading BOX OFFICE: 591591

21 South Street Arts Centre
21 South Street
Reading Box Office: 591591

The Mill at Sonning
Sonning Eye
Reading Tel: 696039

Shinfield Players Theatre
Whitley Wood Lane
Shinfield Park
Reading Tel: 267135

South Hill Park
Ringmead
Birch Hill Bracknell
Berks Tel: 0344 427272

Wokingham Theatre
Twyford Road
Wokingham
Tel: 0734 785363

Watermill Theatre and
Restaurant
Bagnor
Newbury Tel: 0635 46044

Milestone Centre
Caversham Park Village
Reading Tel: 481377

FAIRS and AUCTIONS

Thimbleby and Shorland
Auction Sales 1995 Held at
Reading Cattle Market, Gt.
Knolly's St. Weekly sale of
livestock: cattle, sheep, pigs
etc.

February

- 3 Horses and Saddlery.
11 Motor Vehicles and
Machinery: including
saloon cars, commercial
vehicles, farm and
garden machinery,
D.I.Y., and machine
tools.
25 Household and Office
Furniture and
Equipment, Computers.
Including goods sold by
order of H.M. Customs
and Excise.

March

- 3 Horses and Saddlery.
11 Motor Vehicles and
Machinery: including
saloon cars, commercial
vehicles, farm and
garden machinery,
D.I.Y., and machine
tools.
25 Household and Office
Furniture and
Equipment, Computers.
Including goods sold by
order of H.M. Customs
and Excise.
29 Shetland Ponies: twice
yearly sale.

April

- 7 Horses and Saddlery.
12 Heavy Horses: annual
sale of heavy horses
and equipment.

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TODAY

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It's Fun Being Young...

Full Steam Ahead

For the young, and the young at heart, it's great fun to take a trip on the miniature steam trains at Prospect Park. The Reading Society of Model Engineers organises a public afternoon on the first Sunday of every month, when you can go along and ride on their model trains. Running starts at 2.30pm, and the rides cost just 20p. If you are interested in model engineering - which can include anything from clocks to trains, please contact the Society on (0734) 667764.



All aboard for fun...



Learning a tricky trick at a Reading Children's Event

Fun at East Reading Adventure Playground

Children have their very own special place in East Reading - the Adventure Playground based on London Rd, at the side of Palmer Park. ERAPA, which is also a community venue, is busy throughout the year with a programme of sessions serving all ages of children - from the under 5's to youth groups. But the Centre is also a base for other community activity - with adults made to feel very welcome and invited to get

involved in all sorts of activities at the Centre. Make a note in your diary to come along to ERAPA's OPEN DAY on Monday, February 20th from 10am-4pm. A whole day of fun is planned to launch the Special Needs Play Area at the site - why not come and discover the centre for yourself. If you'd like to know more contact the East Reading Adventure Playground Assoc, on (0734) 667577.

Reading Children's Information Centre has the answer..

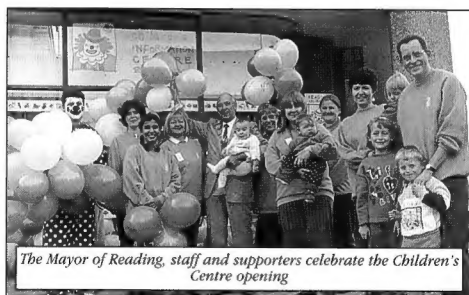


Reading offers many services for children. But how can you find out about them? The Reading Children's Information Centre has the answers.

Established in 1990, the Centre is a registered charity providing free information to parents and carers on all childcare and children's activities in Reading, Newbury and Wokingham. You can either ring or drop into its friendly office in Queen's Walk, opposite The Hexagon, to get information on childminders, toddlers groups, playgroups, nurseries, leisure activities and after school or holiday clubs. Enquiries about nursery equipment, doctors, dentists, and support groups for parents are also welcome. In short, the Centre's information list is almost endless, and its motto is "what we don't know we'll find out". Reading Children's Information Centre has successfully carried out consultancy work for local companies and councils. Based on the assessment of the childcare needs of employees, the Centre develops individually designed information packs with childcare recommendations. The Centre is constantly concerned with children's

issues. Most recently this has included participation in the 1994 Child Friendly Reading Scheme. This campaign, which assessed the child friendliness of shops, stores, restaurants and banks, awarded the friendliest establishments, and compiled the results of the survey in a special guide for parents - available from the centre. The future for the centre promises to be exciting. Director, Jenny Layley says: "The main task will be to maintain our high standard of accurate

information and make companies more aware of the services we offer. A leaflet will shortly be sent to companies in and around Reading, with the aim of holding a second child-care conference". The Centre is funded mainly by Thames Valley Enterprise until March



The Mayor of Reading, staff and supporters celebrate the Children's Centre opening

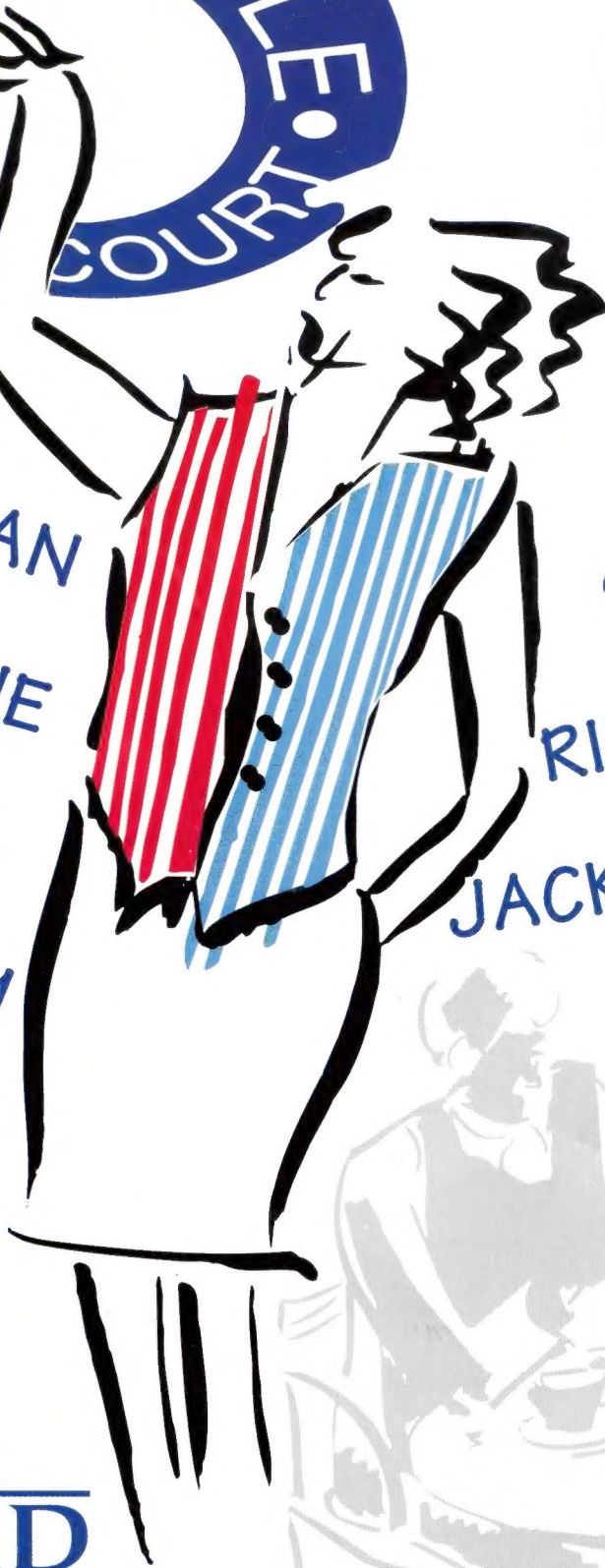
1996, and 8 paid staff undertake the daily running of the office together with an enthusiastic team of volunteers. The Centre is open from Tuesday - Friday, 10am-3pm, with a 24-hour answering service.

Reading Children's Information Centre, Queen's Walk, Civic Centre, Reading. Tel: (01734) 509499.



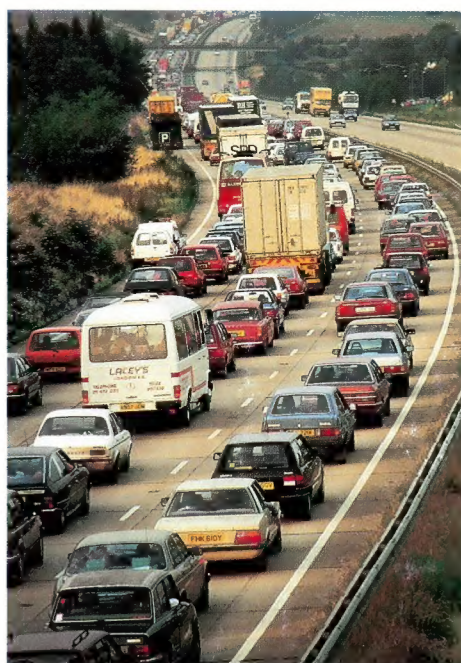
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